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24 MAY 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Trip Report - Materiel Staff Visit to Detachment H
10-11 May 1963 (IDEALIST)

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1. Lt. Colonel [REDACTED] MD/OSA, and Mr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] MD/OSA, visited Detachment H, 10-11 May 1963, to assist the Detachment Commander with aircraft maintenance and construction problems.

2. During the visit, the following items were discussed:

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a. Auto Pilot problems. For a number of days prior to this visit, Article 355 had been out of commission due to auto pilot difficulties. Mr. [REDACTED] LAC, and Mr. [REDACTED] Rep, had been sent to Detachment H at Headquarters direction to assist in auto pilot repair. Just prior to my arrival, the trouble had been determined and the aircraft was in commission. After talking with all concerned, I feel the trouble stemmed from several sources.

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(1) Three auto pilot amplifiers shorted out as soon as power was applied to the system. This led Detachment maintenance personnel to believe the trouble was within the aircraft when actually all three amplifiers had been improperly wired at over-haul and were unusable. Mr. [REDACTED] LAC, will take action with [REDACTED] to improve this situation.

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(2) Pilot techniques may also be involved. The [REDACTED] on location determined the aircraft flew very well two to three knots above the dash one recommended speed at extreme altitudes. Our [REDACTED] felt the [REDACTED] were flying the aircraft in the buffet zone and had been attributing the difficulties to auto pilot jitters.

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(3) Mr. [REDACTED] the Detachment H auto pilot rep, is on his first U-2 assignment and must be considered to be on a learning curve. The Detachment Commander, [REDACTED] all agree Mr. [REDACTED] is the best rep available and should remain in place. He is learning rapidly and soon should be an excellent auto pilot technician.

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b. The problem of inverters being damaged in shipment was brought up during my visit. Maintenance personnel indicate a large percentage of the inverters appear to receive very rough handling enroute and that the present packaging could be improved. Mr. [REDACTED] will take action to improve packing procedures at LAC.

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c. Procedures were established with the [REDACTED] to analyze Detachment H special fuel. Major [REDACTED], Commander, MAAMA Detachment 18, was contacted and detailed procedures were worked out to analyze our fuel within the [REDACTED] theater. Major [REDACTED] indicated this lab processes U-2 fuel often and that one more sample would not cause any special concern within the lab.

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d. Lt. Colonel [REDACTED] indicated local support for housekeeping and medical supplies from the 6213th Support Squadron was very poor. Most requisitions were being returned due to lack of funds. MD/OSA will take action to improve this situation.

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5. I raised the question of replacing the present supply officer's slot with that of materiel officer to give both supply and maintenance support to the Commander. Colonel [REDACTED] felt this was not necessary at this time because the new Commander has considerable maintenance background and should be able to fill this function adequately. He also mentioned that the supply officer's present duties require his full time and replacing him with a materiel type would be of no help to the maintenance side of the house.

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6. An additional report will be submitted by Mr. [REDACTED] to cover the construction items discussed.

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MD/OSA [REDACTED] :ad (23 May 63)

Lt. Colonel USAF
MO/MD/OSA-DD/R

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